641 1798 677
pp. Land
10

PROSPECTUS OF A NEWSPAPER,

DESIGNED FOR SERIOUS FAMILIES, ACADEMIES, &c.

Under the Direction of a Committee of Miniſters and Gentlemen.

The PROFITS *to be devoted to Purpoſes of* BENEVOLENCE.

On WEDNESDAY, April 11th, 1798, will be Publiſhed, to be continued on every ſucceeding Wedneſday, Price SIXPENCE,

THE WEEKLY REGISTER:

An Impartial Journal of Occurrences in the Political, Commercial, Literary, and RELIGIOUS WORLD:

Containing all the authentic News of the Week, Parliamentary Debates, and a variety of important Information not inſerted in any other Newſpaper.

ADDRESS.

THE late rapid and alarming ſpread of Infidelity, and even Atheiſm, calls aloud for the union of all ſerious Chriſtians, on the moſt enlarged ſcale; eſpecially as the rejection of Chriſtianity leads naturally to the doubt or denial of a future ſtate, and a SUPREME BEING: and this looſens the ſacred obligations of an oath, tears away the bonds of ſocial union, and opens the door to licentiouſneſs of every kind. If we enquire by what means theſe pernicious principles have ſo widely ſpread, we ſhall find that the Art of Printing, which, at the Reformation from Popery, was ſo happily employed in the revival of Literature and Religion, has been ſince perverted to the moſt dangerous and deſtructive purpoſes. The *Preſs* is certainly the moſt powerful engine which can be applied to the public mind; and, of all its productions, NEWSPAPERS appear the moſt effective, becauſe circulated to the greateſt extent, and read by thouſands with avidity, who ſcarcely ever read any other publication. That theſe are too generally employed in the cauſe of Scepticiſm, Vice, and Faction, cannot be denied: and to wreſt this weapon from the hands of the enemy, and uſe it with energy in the cauſe of Religion, Virtue, and Social Union, is the grand object of the Plan now ſubmitted to the Public.

PRINCIPLES.—The Impartiality of our principles will confine us as cloſely as poſſible to a SIMPLE NARRATIVE of FACTS, without exaggeration or diſguiſe. Excluding all party obſervation or invective—the coloured mediums through which public objects are generally repreſented to us—we ſhall endeavour to lead the attention of our Readers above ſecond cauſes to the Supreme Governor—to trace his hand in the various events and changes in the world; and to ſhew the harmony ſubſiſting between the diſpenſations of Divine Providence and the Scriptures. Occaſional facts and obſervations will be introduced in favour of natural and revealed Religion; and univerſal Philanthropy, with union and fellowſhip among all parties of ſerious Chriſtians, recommended in the ſtrongeſt terms.

Ever cautious to guard the morals of the riſing generation, we ſhall exclude the vain diverſions of the Theatre, and every other ſource of mental diſſipation: we ſhall endeavour to ſtrip off the meretricious ornaments of Vice, to draw aſide the gaudy robe of Pleaſure, and to ſhew the worm that preys within. And when our Readers require amuſement in the neceſſary hours of relaxation, we ſhall point them to it in the various branches of uſeful and polite Literature—in the progreſs of the Arts and Sciences,—and, above all, in the Chriſtian luxury of *doing good.*

CONTENTS.—News, foreign, provincial, and domeſtic—methodically arranged—the authorities ſubjoined when requiſite—and occaſional Notes, hiſtorical or geographical, inſerted, whenever needful to render the narrative generally intelligible.

A correct and impartial abſtract of the proceedings of the BRITISH PARLIAMENT, with the pricipal ſpeeches on both ſides, on all queſtions of national importance, in a compreſſive but perſpicuous form. A proper regard will alſo be paid to important ſpeeches in other great Aſſemblies; and extracts given from the proceedings of the Iriſh and Foreign Legiſlatures, whenever they appear intereſting to an Engliſh reader. Important deciſions in the Courts of Law, and intereſting public Trials.

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

A brief REVIEW of the ſtate and progreſs of *Religion*, *Literature*, *Science*, the elegant and uſeful *Arts*, &c. with notices of the moſt uſeful *Inventions*, and intereſting *Publications* at home.

Uſeful TABLES of Merchandiſe, Proviſions, Public Stocks, Bankruptcies, Marriages, Deaths, &c. with a conciſe *Necrology*, or memoirs of perſons recently deceaſed, exhibiting Sketches of Character, Anecdotes, and Examples of Genius or Learning, of Virtue, or of Piety.

A Department will be reſerved, when our intelligence permits, for *original Hints* and Obſervations, Selections, or Tranſlations, on commercial, agricultural, medical, and other intereſting ſubjects: with Anecdotes, Curioſities of Literature, Epigrams, and other Articles, combining inſtruction and entertainment.

Laſtly, Select ADVERTISEMENTS, as of Benevolent Inſtitutions, Public Charities, New Books, &c. excluſive of plays, novels, romances, and other publications of an immoral tendency. And here we conceive a channel would be opened, where Religious Advertiſements, in general, would appear to the greateſt advantage, both to the Advertiſer and the Public.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In addition to the Gazettes, Town and Country Papers, Magazines, and Literary Journals, a Correſpondence will immediately be opened with Literary and profeſſional men throughout the kingdom, as well as with Merchants, and private Gentlemen who correſpond abroad.

PRICE, SIZE, and TIME of PUBLICATION.—The WEEKLY REGISTER will be printed in LARGE QUARTO with a new and legible Type; to contain *eight* full pages of three columns each, on *good* paper, for only *Sixpence*. It is alſo deſigned to bind up in Volumes, with complete Indexes, as a new *Annual Regiſter*, on an enlarged and improved ſcale.—The time of publication is propoſed to be on Wedneſday evening, to avoid the profanation of the Lord's Day in its circulation; there being no abſurdity more glaring than that of attempting to *reform* mankind by a ſtated and open breach of the fourth Commandment.

PROFITS.—This Paper not being inſtituted with mercenary motives, the Proprietors renounce all expectation of pecuniary advantage; and determine, after the expences ſhall be returned, to devote all the clear produce of the Publication to the farther circulation of RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE, without reſtriction to any particular denomination, under the regulation of a Committee of Miniſters and Gentlemen, who will engage both for the *continuance* of the Paper on the plan of the *Proſpectus*, and for the faithful application of the profits. The direct objects of the charity will be expreſsly announced to the Public, as ſoon as poſſible after the commencement of the Paper.

ADVANTAGES OF THIS PAPER.—By the plan above ſtated the Proprietors flatter themſelves that they ſhall be able to preſent to the Public, and preſerve to poſterity, a FAITHFUL HISTORY of the PRESENT TIMES—to furniſh ſerious Families with a continual ſupply of uſeful inſtruction and entertainment, that even virgin innocence may read without a bluſh—which circumſtance may alſo recommend it to the uſe of Academies, ſince experience proves that nothing is ſo uſeful to correct the monotony of a ſchool-boy, or to give ſpirit and propriety in reading, as a Newſpaper.

As the WEEKLY REGISTER will not be a mere ſelection, *ſervilely copied*, as is the uſual manner, from the Public Prints; but contain a great variety of original articles, and the whole be entirely recompoſed, it is hoped it may preſerve a conſiſtency, both of ſtyle and fact, not very uſual in a Newſpaper; and be found worth the inſpection even of Gentlemen who are in the habit of peruſing the daily papers.

Finally, As the PROFITS of this Work will be ſacred to Charitable and Religious purpoſes, every perſon who encourages it will of courſe unite with his own gratification the pleaſure of doing good; and may flatter himſelf that, by the Divine bleſſing, the trifle which he contributes to its ſupport may be of incalculable benefit, both to the preſent and the riſing Age.

Printed by T. Gillet, Crown Court, Fleet Street,
And publiſhed by T. CHAPMAN, No. 151, Fleet Street, where all perſons who wiſh to be ſupplied with this Paper are requeſted to ſend their Addreſs.---Alſo by the Clerks of the Roads at the Poſt Office, and by all Newſmen in Town and Country.